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WEEKLY STATION REPORTS

OF THE OFFICE OF

DRY LAND AGRICULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1927

REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 1927.
(Unless otherwise indicated)

SHERIDAN:

Conditions were fairly favorable for outside work until the 3rd. Rain that day and heavy rain and snow since has stopped outside work for the present. Some grain has been cleaned and feed has been ground for the pigs the last two days.

About two-thirds of the corn has been husked. The remainder will have to be dug out of the snow to complete the work. The 33 check plots in corn have made considerably more of this work this year than usual. Threshing has been fairly well cleaned up in this locality now, but some scattered fields still remain unthreshed.

Maximum temperature 58, minimum 19; precipitation, 1.90 inches-snow on the ground 6-1/2 inches.

MANDAN:

Agronomy

The past week has been very favorable for outdoor work. The weather turned much colder toward the end of the week. Temperatures dropped down to the coldest so far for the season.

No field work was done during the week as it was not possible to obtain a corn shredder.

The Fifth Annual State Corn Show was held at Bismarck during the latter part of the week. There were over 800 individual entries of corn. Corn over the State has been exceptionally good this year, and many outstanding samples were on display. A sample of the station strain of Northwestern dent, given by a member of the Boys' Corn Club in Morton County, won second place in the open class. Morton County had the largest number of samples at the show.

Maximum temperature 57, minimum 13; precipitation, .18 inch.

Horticulture

The work during the week has consisted of preparing for winter. Raspberries, grapes and roses have been laid down and covered. Newly planted beds of various fruit selection seeds were mulched.

Mandan, continued:

The acre garden, seedling nursery and miscellaneous plots have been manured and final fall plowing started. The flower beds about the grounds have also been given their annual coats of well rotted manure, which it is intended to turn under next week. The ground is still very dry, making plowing and spading work far from satisfactory.

Arboriculture

Field work for the shelterbelt project is now practically completed, with the exception of making poplar cuttings and gathering ash and boxelder seed. The following stock has been heeled-in for shipment next spring to shelterbelt cooperators:

Northwest poplar	14,180
Green ash	35,370
Boxelder	100,940
Caragana	74,870
Russian olive	26,620

In addition to the above, there are 25,000 to 30,000 Russian olive and a few Chinese elm that will be dug this fall, if weather conditions permit.

Visitors of the week included Mr. J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba, Canada, and Mr. Leroy Moomaw, Superintendent, Dickinson, N. Dak., Substation.

MANDAN: Week ending November 12, 1927.

Agronomy

The past week has been unfavorable for corn shredding. Snow came early in the week and was followed by damp and foggy weather.

Feed fields and blocks were shredded, but it was too wet to start on the rotations. With favorable weather this work should be completed next week.

The weather has turned much colder. About two inches of snow fell during the week, and a small amount remains on the ground. Maximum temperature 39, minimum -1 ; precipitation, .14 inch.

ARDMORE:

The entire week was stormy or threatening and very little field work was done.

The field work performed during the week consisted of husking corn in field 27, hauling the sorgo in the variety test, and reshocking the cane shocks that had fallen down. A small amount of digging in the ditch for the pipe line was also done.

The steers to be used in the winter feeding test were branded on October 31. These steers will go on feed the first of next week. The first of the three days' weighings is being made today. The sorgo seed was cleaned during the week.

It will be at least a week before any of the remaining sorgo can be hauled. A drizzling rain fell all day Friday and snow has been falling steadily all day today. There is only an accumulation of about three inches of snow on the ground as much of the snow has melted.

The maximum temperature for the week was 57, minimum 26; precipitation, .66 inch. The total precipitation for October was 1.16 inches. The precipitation from January 1 to October 31, inclusive, is exactly 20.0 inches.

ARDMORE: Week ending November 12, 1927.

The fore part of the week was stormy and threatening, the middle part clear and fair, and the latter part cold and windy. The ground was too wet for corn husking most of the week. Sorgo is still too wet to haul, but is drying somewhat and may be in condition to haul next week.

Work on the pipe line is progressing rapidly. The water lines and electric lines from the old power house to the new one were laid during the week.

The beef cattle to be used in the winter feeding test were weighed on three consecutive days and were started on feed on November 8. The steers were dipped for the second time on November 8. The average weight of steers in three of the lots is 655 pounds. The steers in the other lot average 655.5 pounds.

Ardmore, continued:

Mr. D. V. Kopland, Dairy Husbandman in charge of Field Stations, visited the station the latter part of the week.
Maximum temperature 67, minimum 14; precipitation, .09 inch.

ARCHER:

During the past week the weather has been dry with high winds. This condition hampered field work. Due to heavy rains the last of the previous week, all hay and corn fodder was wet. However, the corn fodder was put into the silo. Part of the old telephone poles purchased from the Western Union Telegraph Company have been hauled, some yard fences built, some hay hauled and most of the fall plowing on the Dry-Land plots accomplished.

Winter wheat is in very good condition. All seedings except that on November 1 are up and appear thrifty. Some of the plots along the sides and ends have been slightly damaged by grasshoppers.

Director W. L. Quayle was a recent visitor at the station.
Maximum temperature 62, minimum 25; precipitation .22 inch.

AKRON:

The week passed favorably for field work but with no relief from the drought. The husking of the rotation corn was commenced early in the week and completed by this week end. The corn is heavy and is being calculated on the basis of 80 pounds to the bushel. The yields are running low, mainly due, it is believed, to the poor stands.

An inspection of the fall sown plots on the first revealed rye well stooled and covering the plots but suffering markedly for lack of moisture.

Winter wheat on fallow had made progress since last inspected the middle of October and covered the plot nicely. Winter wheat on corn land was just emerging. There appeared even less stand on fall plowed and fall disked small grain stubble plots than two weeks ago. It is expected that considerable killing has occurred on these plots from drought. The winter wheat varieties on fallow are up nicely and had made considerable progress since inspection. Winter wheat varieties on corn land was just emerging. The last rate and date seeding of winter wheat was made on the first.
Maximum temperature 67, minimum 22; precipitation, .06 inch.

AKRON: Week ending November 12, 1927.

There was some threatening during the week, but no rain or snow of consequence. The week on the whole was favorable for field work.

The husking of the rotation and the rotation extension corn plots and the hauling in and weighing of the rotation sorghum plots was completed. Sheep Rotation 25 corn field was husked and about half completed. Sheep Rotation 51 corn field was husked. Sheep Rotation 28 corn field yielded at the rate of 15.1 bushels per acre on a basis of 80 pounds to the bushel.

The ewes on the ten-acre native sod pasture were weighed off this experiment on the 10th. Much time was spent during the week weighing and allotting the ewes for the winter's feeding experiment which was started today, the 12th.

County Agent Foster and Mr. Allen, Extension Animal Husbandman in charge of Hogs, visited the station today.

Maximum temperature 82, minimum 20; precipitation, Trace, as snow.

GARDEN CITY:

The first freeze of the season was recorded the past week. A temperature of 24 was recorded. The late fall has been helpful to most row crops since most of them were planted late and would have been damaged by an early killing frost. At this time all farm crops were out of the way of cold weather.

Threshing is in progress on many farms in the county, and for the most part yields are not meeting the expectations of the farmers. However, a fair crop of sorghum is being threshed.

The sugar campaign is in full progress at this time and the sugar company is reporting a high sugar content with an exceptional purity. The tonnage per acre is somewhat lower than in former years.

GARDEN CITY: Week ending November 12, 1927.

The weather has been threatening the past few days but no moisture has been received during the week. High winds the past two days have piled the fences full of Russian thistles from our neighbors' fields.

Garden City, continued:

Sorghum threshing is in progress and will probably be completed during the next week. For the most part yields are low and the quality of grain poor. The poor quality of grain is due to immaturity. Even though we had a late killing frost, the sorghums seemed to stop development when damaged by hail on September 23.

Wheat on the project is still looking good, but many farmers are reporting that dry weather is doing serious damage to their wheat. Most of the wheat in the county came up to a good stand and has made a satisfactory fall growth.

HAYS: Week ending November 12, 1927.

Weather continues dry and temperatures moderate. There has been no rain of measurable quantity since September 28. The lowest temperature thus far this fall was 18, November 12. For the most part the sky has been cloudless except for a few days.

Generally, winter wheat looks very good on all early prepared land regardless of the method. It is not so good on late worked ground and especially if sowed late.

Dynamiting and deep tillage work has been completed and the late plowing and listing for spring crops is about finshed..

DALHART:

The past week has been cool with very little cloudiness. The minimum temperature for the week was 24 with the maximum at 78. There has been no precipitation during the week.

Heading of the increase fields has been in progress during the entire week. This heading will last for about four days before it is finished, due to a large part of its having blown flat during the storm of last week. Today will finish the shocking of the fodder on all plots. The work of heading and shocking has been rather slow but it will enable threshing to be done much earlier than if the heads were allowed to remain on the stalks until the latter is cured. Some threshing was done this week which consisted of cowpeas and millet. The grain separator was used in threshing the cowpeas with good success which has cut the labor cost over methods used in the past. This was accomplished by the use of a 14" pulley on the cylinder and substituting boards for the concaves.

Dalhart, continued:

Small grains are still looking good but are needing rain. Some good rain was recorded in parts of the Panhandle the night the station was visited by the twister. There seems to be only a narrow path covered by this storm in which much damage was done. This storm ruined results on all the peanut experimental work on the station this year. All peanuts were harvested and stored in wire baskets to cure. The path covered by the storm took in the peanut varieties as well as the plot of peanuts of the rotations. It lifted 10 large baskets over one fence and left the empty baskets against the pasture fence, strung out for about three hundred yards. There was not a hand full of peanuts or vines to be found after the storm. This storm passed over a stable of a farmer near the station and left a part of the roof of his barn in the middle of the station pasture. Shocks were blown down all over the station. Some drilled feed was cocked and about ready to haul in when the storm hit. Fully half of this feed was scattered so that no signs of it could be found. The remainder has since been hauled in and stored in the barn loft. None of this came under experimental work, so records lost only pertain to peanuts.

TUCUMCARI:

During the past week threshing and hauling and husking have been performed. Stover yields of corn are high, but ears are soft and have been placed in sacks to dry before grain yields are determined. All D.L.A. milo plots, with the exception of seven late plots, which were not headed, have been threshed, cleaned, and yields determined. The late milo plots consist of the MC F and G, and listed methods No. 1 to No. 5. These will be threshed from the shock and will probably average not over 20 to 22 bushels.

Summary of the 14 Center Field plots:-

High plot, 53.1 bu., #298B, on manured fallow
Low plot, 27.1 bu., MCA, spring plowed, continucus
Average of 14, 36.3 bu.
Threshing percentage of heads:-High 76.4%; low, 70.3%; average, 73.4%.

Summary of 18 North Field, 0.3 acre plots:-
High plot, 41.3 bu., 165A, milo on fallow; kafir, fallow, milo.
Low plot, 21.1 bu., 169B, milo on kafir; milo, kafir, fallow.
Average of 18 plots, 31.6 bu.
Threshing percentage of heads:- High, 76.2%; low, 71.4%; average, 74%. Average yield of 32 plots, 33.6 bu. Average threshing percentage, 73.8%.

Tucumcari, continued:

A very few plots of D.L.A. kafir and cooperative sorghum plots were fully mature when frost occurred. These were not headed, but were cut and shocked. Grain on all of these plots has matured as much as it will, and, if possible, threshing will be pursued steadily, but it is probable the stover on many plots is so high in moisture as to demand several weeks more time in the shock.

Maximum temperature 79, minimum 26; precipitation, 0.
Total precipitation for the past six weeks, .18 inch.

TUCUMCARI: Week ending November 12, 1927.

Work the past week has included threshing a few early variety plots, the single row grain sorghum nursery, and heading a number of plots which were too immature to head at or before shocking time. It is now planned to continue heading shocked plots until all are headed, for by this method threshing can be completed soon. Stover is still quite heavy on the majority of plots and can be allowed to stand, after being headed, until it is sufficiently cured for weighing.

Climatic conditions have been ideal the past two months for fall work, but at present much of the wheat on the plains is in need of moisture. Most fields are looking unusually well and the acreage is larger than usual. Precipitation the past six weeks has totaled only .18 inch, so there has been no interruption of fall work within that period.

Maximum temperature, 82; minimum, 31.

BIG SPRING:

Weather conditions during the past week have continued to be ideal for picking cotton and harvesting feed crops. A very good grade of cotton is being obtained, and the grain sorghums have all been harvested without being weather stained.

The Jerusalem artichokes were harvested this week; a yield at the rate of 260 bushels per acre was obtained in spite of the fact that the past summer was very dry. Other work consisted of digging and stacking peanuts, picking cotton, and cutting sorghum plots.

Maximum temperature 85, minimum 34; precipitation, 0.

BIG SPRING: Week ending November 12, 1927.

Ideal weather conditions had prevailed during the week until last night, when a norther hit this section of the country. Although the temperature dropped considerably it did not get down to freezing.

Cotton varieties, dates, and cotton spacing plots were picked this week. Other work consisted of threshing and cleaning cowpea varieties for seed and for increase planting, and overhauling the thresher. It is hoped that threshing of grain sorghums can be started next week.

Dr. Cook, W. H. Jenkens, and H. C. McNamara, of the Cotton Office, were station visitors November 11, while Mr. H. H. Shultz, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Dr. A. B. Cox, visited the station today.

Maximum temperature 80, minimum 36; precipitation, 0.

WOODWARD:

The week has been spent on miscellaneous harvesting and threshing of sorghums and cotton. The weather has been free from high winds or low temperatures, making conditions for harvesting ideal. While the temperature went below 32 one night, little injury was noted on standing crops except in low spots. Wheat continues to make good growth and is covering the ground well, though little of it has yet made permanent roots.

Twenty-one varieties of grapes were included in storage tests this season. These were packed in 4-quart Climax baskets. One basket of each variety was placed in common storage, i.e., in basement without ice. At the end of 5 days, 16 of the 21 varieties were in good marketable condition.

One basket of each variety was placed in cold storage (with ice) for each of the following periods -- 10, 20 and 30 days, and on removal was placed in common storage for an additional five days. At the end of 10 days 14 varieites were in good marketable condition, and after the additional 5 days in common storage only four were in good condition. At the end of 20 days 12 varieties were good and after the five additional days only 3 of them were in good condition. At the end of 30 days only 2 varieties were marketable.

Fourteen of these same varieties were placed in mechanical storage where the temperatures were somewhat lower. At the end of 30 days 13 of these 14 varieties were still in good marketable condition, and at the end of an additional 5 days 6 of these were still in good condition.

Maximum temperature 78, minimum 31; precipitation, .18 inch.
Average hourly wind velocity, 6.8 miles.